

Filed for intro on 02/19/97

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 54
By Newton

A RESOLUTION memorializing the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds for the replacement of the Chickamauga Lock.

WHEREAS, the integrity of Tennessee's infrastructure is dependent upon the continued support of the Federal Government and its funding mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, the Chickamauga Lock plays a significant role in the Tennessee Valley economy, serving as a gateway for the transporting of goods into and out of the Tennessee Valley; and

WHEREAS, located upstream from Chattanooga on the Tennessee River, the Chickamauga Lock is an integral part of the river's navigational system; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Chickamauga Lock has developed serious structural problems, which have caused it to deteriorate at a rapid pace, and despite close monitoring by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the lock has now deteriorated to the point that repairs are ineffective; and

WHEREAS, TVA's final Congressionally appropriated budget contains language prohibiting TVA from using 1997 funds for the new lock and from moving forward with detailed engineering and construction activities this fiscal year; and

41651379

41651379

002865

00286547

WHEREAS, TVA estimates that, if left unchecked, the structural problems will cause the Lock to be closed to traffic by 2005, forcing the abandonment of over 350 miles of navigable waterway above Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, closing the Chickamauga Lock would also result in the loss of several thousand jobs, an increase in the cost of alternative modes of transportation, a forfeiture of \$25 million annually in transportation savings, and pose serious problems for water-dependent industries and burgeoning waterfront development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the members of this legislative body to ensure the continued welfare of all Tennesseans and to maintain the state's prominent position as a leader in the Southeast's economic development; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby supports the construction of a new Chickamauga Lock and memorializes the Congress of the United States to proceed expeditiously with engineering studies and to fund the replacement of the Chickamauga Lock on the Tennessee River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.